

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01507 161555Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /026 W
-----161604Z 065135 /43

O 161515Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9920

S E C R E T BOGOTA 1507

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER: SITREP 5

1. COLONEL MANUEL URIBE, WHO IS DEPUTY TO GENERAL MONTANEZ AND CHIEF FOR INTERNAL MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, INFORMED US THIS MORNING THAT HE CAN CONFIRM THAT STARR DID MAKE THE REMARK TO THE THE KIDNAPPERS ABOUT AN EMBASSY CONNECTION THAT WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND CARRIED IN SITREP 4 AND THAT RIGHT AFTER THIS HE WAS TAKEN AWAY. URIBE SAID HE WAS NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM HOWEVER THAT STARR WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE SOME THINGS AWAY WITH HIM AS THE JUDGE HAD INDICATED TO THE PRESS.

2. URIBE SAID THE ARMY ESTIMATES THAT THE FARC GROUP CONSISTED OF ABOUT 50 PERSONS. THEY WORE FARC ARMBANDS, PASSED OUT LEAFLETS AND LOUDLY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS BEING FARC. ARM BELIEVES THAT THEY WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN STEALING MONEY SINCE THEY DID NOT BOTHER TO CARRY OFF FOOD OR SUPPLIES FROM THE RAIDED CAMP.

3. URIBE BELIEVES THE FARC UNIT WILL NOW MARCH BACK TO ITS NORMAL BASE AREA WHICH IS AOUT 8 TO 10 DAYS' MARCH AWAY OVER NARROW JUNGLE TRAILS THAT CANNOT BE OBSERVED FROM THE AIR. ARMY GROUND PATROLS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO FOLLOW-UP CLOSELY BECAUSE THE TRAIL IS COLD AND MOREOVER

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01507 161555Z

THE PATROLS COULD EASILY BE STOPPED ON THE TRAIL BY A FEW GUERRILLAS IN AN AMBUSH, THUS LEADING TO MASSACRE OF ADVANCE PATROL MEMBERS. URIBE ESTIMATES IT WILL BE 15-20 DAYS BEFORE THE FARC TRIES TO COMMUNICATE WITH US OR GOC, MOST OF THIS TIME BEING REQUIRED FOR RETURN TO THEIR BASE AREA.
SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770238/aaaabgxw.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
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